



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Bartinik, Jr.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Kristen Negaard.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2007-0090

Proclamation Honoring Ruth Keyes

PROCLAMATION HONORING RUTH KEYES

Read

Historic District Commission Chairman Charles Nado thanked Ruth Keyes for her dedicated service since November of 1986.

Mayor Watson read the proclamation and presented her with a plaque.

Recess for Public Hearing

Mayor Watson called a recess at 7:36 p.m.

READING OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox.

Barbara Winkler, 121 Riverview Avenue, a former staff member of the Senior Center, is in favor of its expansion. A larger facility is required to accommodate the increasing senior citizen population and to expand the offering of programs.

Deborah Berg, 44 Hillcrest Road, stated that according to the Groton Strategic Economic Plan (dated 2006), the majority of the Town's population is less than 55 years old. Expanding the Senior Center will not benefit the majority of residents. The proposed appropriation of funds would be better spent by providing a community aquatic center that would be utilized by all residents. A community aquatic center would provide a single civic focal point for the entire Town.

Donald Schoolcraft, 350 Ring Drive, a volunteer at the Senior Center, stated that it cost less than \$2 million to build the center 28 years ago. He discussed his work at the computer learning center. Mr. Schoolcraft stated that the cost associated with the expansion nowadays is comparable to that of the original construction.

Richard Elliot, 59 C Street, a volunteer at the Senior Center, utilizes the services and programs offered by the Center. His wife uses the cardiac rehabilitation program which is available to any individual undergoing rehabilitation. There are many activities that are offered to people under the age of 55.

Lora Robarge, 84 Pamela Avenue, a volunteer at the Senior Center, utilizes the services and attends various functions provided by the Center. She has made many friends at the center and hopes that the Council will vote in favor of its expansion.

Elizabeth Becker, 107 Candlewood Road, said that she and her parents have enjoyed the Senior Center. She has made new friends, participated in programs and taken trips offered by the Senior Center. Ms. Becker noted the lack of parking spaces, programs and kitchen space. If an aquatherapy center is the deterrent for the expansion to go forward, then give the voter the choice to proceed with the expansion either with or without an aquatic center.

Julia Willis, 22 Governors Circle, representing the Friends of the Groton Senior Center and Vice President of the Senior Club, forwarded a petition supporting the expansion of the center (on file in the Town Clerk's office). She looks forward to visiting the Senior Center every day and has met many people there.

Phil Butta, 282 Noank Ledyard Road, Mystic, member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, reviewed reasons for supporting the expansion of the Senior Center and pointed out that the bottom line is to allow the voters to decide. He stated that the aquatherapy center has the ability to generate revenue and that a goal of the commission is to get Parks and Recreation programs to cover their own costs.

Irene Ritter, 24 Cushman Street, stated that the Town has never had any control over any swimming facility. She asked the Council to build a Town pool and not install something which only a segment of the community may use for their ailments.

Tom Morris, discussed the cost to the average homeowner to finance the expansion of the Groton Senior Center. He and his wife enjoy the activities held at the Senior Center and are proud of the Town's services and its national recognition.

Mayor Watson received an email from Bob Allen expressing his opposition to the renovation of the Groton Senior Center and for the need of a community center which would benefit all residents. The Mayor also received an email from William and Sharon Helton requesting that the expansion of the Senior Center be deferred and that the Council report on the long term proposed major capital expenditures facing the Town over the next decade.

Councilor Sheets arrived at 7:37 p.m.

2007-0125

Public Hearing on Senior Center Addition Ordinance

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$13,310,000 FOR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of THIRTEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,310,000) is appropriated for renovations and additions to the Groton Senior Center. The project shall include (1) additions for new administrative offices and activity classrooms, (2) addition to house a new aqua therapy center and changing rooms, (3) additions of a new computer room, music room, and exercise and fitness rooms, (4) renovations and additions for

kitchen facilities, (5) renovations to the existing multi-purpose room, including a stage, (6) renovations and additions for the entry vestibule and lobby, (7) renovations and additions to house various activities, including arts and crafts, ceramics, cards and games, health screening, special programs, a senior store, toilets and electrical, mechanical and storage rooms, and (8) relocation of the roller hockey rink offsite to a location to be determined by the Town Manager on the recommendation of the Director of Parks and Recreation. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, furnishings, fixtures, materials, site improvements, moving and temporary relocation costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed THIRTEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,310,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes and all notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes that in each year while any such bonds or notes are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed THIRTEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$13,310,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds or notes authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this ordinance if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to

provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Section 8.12 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Heard at Public Hearing

Town Manager Oefinger stated that Town staff and an architect were in attendance and available to make a presentation. Responding to the Town Manager, the majority of Councilors did not feel the presentation was necessary as they had already heard it in the past.

Mayor Watson reiterated that this is a public hearing for an ordinance that has been drafted by the Town Attorney. It is the first part of a process to possibly place an item on a ballot. The Council will consider all of the comments and may separate this matter into more than one question.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:07 p.m.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Toni Hoover, Eastern Point Road, Senior Vice President and Site Director representing Pfizer, read a letter in which she reviewed the impact of the re-assessment. She stated that by enacting the phase-in, commercial taxpayers are being asked to bear a disproportionate burden of the taxes. Pfizer asks to be treated no better than any other taxpayer.

Timothy Bates, 65 Front Street, Noank, feels that the real culprit is the dependence of the state of Connecticut on the property tax for most government services. He worries that with the best of intentions, the phase-in is bringing the self-defeating dynamic of the property tax to Groton. The Town seems no longer able to balance the commercial and residential properties equally. Only through property tax reform will we be able to avoid the urge to pit commercial and residential taxpayers against each other.

Lynn Anderson, 91 Noble Avenue, Noank, is concerned that her part of Noank has been targeted for high property taxes and "high density entertainment use". She forwarded a copy of her letter to the Board of Assessment Appeals, a petition expressing concern about the future of Esker Point Beach and correspondence of residents who were not able to attend tonight's meeting of the Council. Ms. Anderson spoke about tax assessment concerns.

Don Treworgy, 91 Noble Avenue, Noank, stated that due to their property being at a low elevation, they are more vulnerable to damage from storm surges than Groton Long Point or Noank. He read an email from Ron Janeczko, who was not able to attend tonight's meeting, in which he reported how residents leave their homes to avoid the concerts but return to face the clean-up of empty beer bottles.

Kristen Negaard, 99 Noble Avenue, Noank, discussed the problems associated with concerts at Esker Point Beach which includes trash, trespassing and overcrowded parking. She hopes that Parks and Recreation will reconsider the upcoming concerts aimed at attracting teenagers.

George O'Brien, 99 Noble Avenue, Noank, read a letter from Mac Burt regarding the problem

with sand filling up the cove, causing changes in wildlife, loss of the use of docks for boating and loss of protective seawall height.

Mary Elaine Kelly, 40 Plant Street, President of the Groton Animal Foundation (GAF), stated that they strongly support a local shelter and urged the Council to vote in favor of a bond ordinance for less than the \$1.3 million cost. She also asked Councilors to defer their decision on a regional shelter until after the November elections.

Wendy Eckholm, 165 Benham Road, reiterated a list of concerns Windsor Locks experienced after outsourcing its animal control to Suffield. She discussed the inability of the Connecticut Humane Society to take in additional animals. Ms. Eckholm believes that rebuilding the Groton shelter addresses the future needs of our community.

Len Kimes, 192 Michigan Drive, discussed the various aspects of the school building projects and changes in construction standards/industry.

Peter Beidelman, 14 Winthrop Drive, has been shut out of working on the school building projects and feels that he has been let down by the Council. He asked if background checks were completed on the construction workers at Fitch Senior High School.

David Caswell, 19 George Avenue, would like the Council to verify if background checks have been performed on laborers at the school construction sites.

Frank Parker, 39 George Avenue, does not believe that any of the construction workers at Fitch Senior High School are residents of New London County.

Danny Parker, 183 Indian Field Road, is concerned with the increasing taxes, deteriorating wages and the increase in immigrant workers in the community.

Keith Brothers, 268 Thomas Road, President of Laborers' Local 547 Union, read a letter that discussed the picket line outside of Fitch Senior High School's construction site, workers on the school project having a background check, and local construction workers having first priority for jobs on this project. He noted his displeasure that the union representatives were not allowed to bring in their picket signs.

Hari Deshpande, 21 Pearl Street, discussed how the redistricting plan will result in his two children being enrolled in three different schools within just a few months. He requested that the Council find a means to insure that the school construction projects are completed earlier than December.

John Taylor, 23 Spicer Avenue, stated that the Town has become an international destination with construction workers from Honduras, Equador, Mexico and Brazil on the school construction project.

John Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, compared the property taxes that would be paid by Pfizer to that of all residents combined without a phase-in of property tax. He provided a table which represents the impact to Pfizer's property taxes with and without the phase-in. Mr. Sutherland commented on Councilor Scott's letter to the Mystic River Press last week and noted examples of inaccuracies.

Genevieve Cerf, 17 Crescent Street, RTM member for District 8, stated that she supports the union representatives in attendance at tonight's meeting. She is ashamed that the Town is cheating its residents by employing imported labor. Ms. Cerf stated that Pfizer's fair market value has increased by \$100 million between the 2005 and 2006 revaluation, but its taxes will decrease with

the phase-in.

Bill Witnick, 210 Baker Avenue Extension, appreciates the Councilors' efforts and hopes that they hold contractors to a high standard.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Responding to comments surrounding the phase-in, Councilor Scott reviewed his three year phase-in observations after receiving a spreadsheet from Tax Assessor John Philip to give information on what taxpayers may or may not save from the phase-in process.

Responding to Mr. Deshpande, Councilor Bond stated that the Council has spoken with the Board of Education to make sure that the school construction project stays on schedule. She empathized with his situation regarding his children transferring between schools.

Responding to Councilor Bond, the Town Manager confirmed that the Council agreed to not go with a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Mr. Oefinger stated that he will follow up with the Council regarding accusations that some construction workers may have police records and/or prior violations.

Responding to Councilor Bond, the Town Manager stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is contemplating a series of three concerts for teens and identifying some additional sites besides Esker Point Beach.

Responding to union representatives, Councilor Sheets discussed why she had supported a PLA.

Councilor O'Beirne interrupted Councilor Sheets and stated that she was not responding to specific complaints of the petitioners.

Responding to Councilor Sheets, the Mayor reiterated that the Town Manager will report back to the Council after meeting with Gilbane Construction.

Councilor Streeter requested an evaluation of the upcoming concert for teenagers at Esker Point Beach.

A brief recess was taken at this point in the meeting.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0124 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of April 24, 2007 and May 1, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor O'Beirne requested that page 8 of the minutes of April 24 be corrected to insert "some" before "taxpayers" under his comments regarding the revaluation phase-in.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2006-0045 2006 Revaluation

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0108 Reappointments to Boards, Agencies and Commissions

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0110 Human Services Assistant Job Description

2007-0111 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Pumpout Boat Grant Contract

2007-0112 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Assistant Animal Control Officer Job Description

2007-0113 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor - WPCF Job Description

2007-0115 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
CIP Project Reauthorization - High School Auditorium

2007-0116 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
AT&T Excelsior Grant

2007-0118 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Appointment of Susan Sutherland to the Zoning Commission

2007-0119 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Appointment of Nancy A. Mitchell to the Historic District Commission

2007-0120 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Appointment of Scott Rusotto to the Zoning Board of Appeals

2007-0121 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Appointment of Christine Grady to the Zoning Board of Appeals

2007-0122 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Reappointment of Edward Stebbins to the Zoning Board of Appeals

2007-0123 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Reappointment of Michael Meyer to the Housing Authority

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2007-0109 **Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Shoprite Supermarkets - \$2,500 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Susan Decorte - \$221.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Harry and Neda Freed - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary

Core Plus Federal Credit Union - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Mystic Irish Parade Foundation - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

The Anderson-Paffard Foundation, Inc. - \$1,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

IAFF Local #1964 (Groton City Firefighters) - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors took a tour of the Connecticut Humane Society in Waterford prior to tonight's

meeting.

Councilor O'Beirne received emails supporting a local dog pound for Groton, reporting on the upcoming band concerts at Esker Point Beach and opposing the expansion of the Senior Center.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors on May 10. She attended the Senior Center Citizens Club's Achievement Awards on May 15. Many club members spoke with her regarding support of the expansion. Councilor Kolnaski received letters supporting the construction of a new animal shelter in Groton.

Councilor Bond received communications in support of building a community center in lieu of expanding the Groton Senior Center.

After meeting with the Groton Lions Club on a Saturday, Councilor Streeter suggested that the Council may want to implement an Adopt-A-Highway program.

Mayor Watson and Councilor O'Beirne attended a Subase Realignment Coalition meeting on May 14. The Mayor will be meeting with Norwich Mayor Ben Lathrop to discuss the possibility of joining Groton in building a regional animal shelter. The Mayor, Town Manager and Town Attorney will be meeting with Ken Berg and his representative to discuss the construction of a pool. He noted that the BOE will have a retirement reception on June 5.

b. Representative Town Meeting

The next RTM meeting will be on May 16 to discuss the Education budget.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox stated that she attended a seminar on electronic records management which focused primarily on email.

The Town Clerk mentioned that the Councilors should have a reappointment questionnaire which she had amended slightly from what the committee had seen so that it would be more clear as to who was to sign what area.

The Town Clerk read a list of vacancies on Boards and Commissions in the Town. She noted that she had distributed the most current list of applicants for the Charter Revision Commission and would like some guidance from the Council as to whether or not to set up interviews and to clarify which committee should address this matter.

Responding to the Town Clerk, the Mayor stated that historically the Committee of the Whole takes care of Charter Revision. There will be a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on May 22 at 6:00 p.m.

2007-0133

Historic Document Preservation Grant

HISTORIC DOCUMENT PRESERVATION GRANT

Referred

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox requested a referral for the Town Manager to sign a contract for a historic preservation grant which was referred to the Finance Committee.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger stated that he met on May 14 with representatives at Aquarion Water Company who noted that on May 15 they would be issuing a press release concerning a proposed water rate increase of approximately 20%. He mentioned that the Economic and Business Development Commission will have a business caravan on May 19 regarding the school construction sites. The Town Manager reported that there will be a Groton Town Police Department Ceremony on May 18 recognizing new patrol officers, sergeant promotions, and

officer awards. Mr. Oefinger noted that there is a retirement party scheduled for Executive Director of CCM Joel Cogen in Hartford. He stated that the Fitch Senior High School Graduation Committee annual golf tournament is scheduled for May 25 and individuals wishing to participate may contact Jim Young at 444-2101 ext. 16. The Town Manager reminded viewers that the Eastern Connecticut and Mystic Chambers of Commerce are sponsoring the Annual Education Breakfast Meeting on June 6 and that the Fall Festival will be on October 6.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

Councilor Schmidt stated that there was a meeting held on May 8.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

Councilor Scott reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on May 8 which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

Councilor Streeter reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on May 8 which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There was a Special Committee of the Whole meeting prior to tonight's meeting at which time the Council took a tour of the Connecticut Humane Society in Waterford. There was a Committee of the Whole meeting on May 8 and the items on tonight's agenda are a result of that meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2007-0116 AT&T Excelsior Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR AN AT&T EXCELSIOR GRANT FOR THE GROTON SENIOR CENTER

WHEREAS, the Groton Senior Center wishes to develop a web site for the Groton Adult Computer Learning Center, and for the training of volunteer instructors in web site design and implementation, and

WHEREAS, the AT&T Foundation provides grants to fund programs that focus on helping non-profit organizations integrate technology into their operations and community service, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a grant of \$5,000 from the AT&T Foundation, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0108

Reappointments to Boards, Agencies and Commissions

RESOLUTION APPROVING A FORM AND PROCEDURE AS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER APPOINTED OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, the terms of persons serving as members of boards and commissions and other appointed officials expire following terms of two to five years, as provided by State Statutes, the Town Charter, or enabling resolutions, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, in coordination with the Town's political party committees and staff of the Town Clerk and Town Manager's offices, must provide for the prompt, efficient and thorough consideration of reappointments, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Reappointment Questionnaire, attached to this agenda, is approved and required - effective immediately - for use by Town Council committees, political committees, heads of boards and commissions, and staff.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0110

Human Services Assistant Job Description

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR HUMAN SERVICES ASSISTANT

WHEREAS, Groton Department of Human Services is in need of a part time staff employee who will handle the client and family case intakes for Youth and Family Services, and

WHEREAS, the proposed position will replace a higher paid job that was vacated by retirement, and

WHEREAS, the proposed job was provided for in the FYE 2008 budget approved by the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description for Human Services Assistant, dated April, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0112

Assistant Animal Control Officer Job Description

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSISTANT ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

WHEREAS, animal control duties for the Town of Groton, including the City of Groton, require the services of two employees, and

WHEREAS, the revised job description will conform to State of Connecticut laws and regulations and will better reflect the actual duties of the position, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description of Assistant Animal Control officer, dated April, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0113

Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor - WPCF Job Description

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR - WPCF

WHEREAS, the subject position was reviewed in the light of the vacancy created by the retirement of the previous incumbent, and

WHEREAS, this job requires expertise in managing processing assets that are 30 years old and more, while also having responsibility for installing and maintaining the most advanced equipment that will soon be added to the Water Pollution Control Facility, and

WHEREAS, the proposed job was provided for in the FYE 2008 budget approved by the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description of Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor - WPCF, dated April, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0111

Pumpout Boat Grant Contract

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ANNUAL GRANT TO OPERATE A PUMPOUT BOAT

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has provided funding under the Clean Vessel Act for the operation of a pumpout boat in the Mystic River, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Department of Public Works is seeking a contractor or contractors to perform the pumpout service for the coming season, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may execute a grant contract with DEP in such amounts as will best effectuate the purposes of this resolution, and may execute all additional documents, assurances and certifications as may be required.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0115

CIP Project Reauthorization - High School Auditorium

RESOLUTION REAPPROPRIATING BOARD OF EDUCATION CIP FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM approve Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) through the budgetary process and occasionally during the year, and

WHEREAS, a CIP appropriation is valid for five years including the year of appropriation, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM may reappropriate unexpended CIP funds for their initial intended purpose, and

WHEREAS, there are funds remaining in a FYE 2003 CIP that will no longer be available unless reappropriated, and

WHEREAS, this situation has occurred with a CIP associated with the Board of Education, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the remaining balance of \$48,400 for FYE 2003 CIP#5C (Air Conditioning Replacement-Hagerty Auditorium) be reappropriated and referred to the RTM for approval via RTM Rule 6.5.3.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on June 13, 2007.

This item was referred under Rule 6.5.3

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0118 Appointment of Susan Sutherland to the Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUSAN K. SUTHERLAND AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Susan K. Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, is hereby appointed as an Alternate to the Zoning Commission, for a term expiring 9/30/08.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Scott stated that Ms. Sutherland's application was received on April 5 and she is an unaffiliated candidate for this position. It is normally the process to wait 60 days on these applications to allow the parties to bring in a party affiliated person. Voting on this appointment should be postponed until after June 5.

A motion to postpone voting on this appointment to the first Town Council meeting after June 5 was made by Councilor Scott. Councilor O'Beirne objected to Councilor Scott's motion and recommended that the Council proceed with this item tonight due to existing and pending vacancies on the Zoning Commission. If Susan Sutherland is appointed this evening, there will still be an alternate vacancy open to both political parties.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Scott

2007-0119 Appointment of Nancy A. Mitchell to the Historic District Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING NANCY A. MITCHELL AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Nancy A. Mitchell, 711 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, is hereby appointed as a Regular Member, formerly an Alternate, to the Historic District Commission, for a term expiring 12/31/2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0120 Appointment of Scott Russotto to the Zoning Board of Appeals

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SCOTT RUSSOTTO AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Scott Russotto, 25 New London Road, Mystic, is hereby appointed as a Regular Member, formerly an Alternate, to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term expiring 12/31/2007.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0121 Appointment of Christine Grady to the Zoning Board of Appeals

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHRISTINE GRADY AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Board of Appeals, as a Regular Member, formerly an Alternate, for a term expiring 12/31/2010.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0122 Reappointment of Edward Stebbins to the Zoning Board of Appeals

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD STEBBINS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Edward Stebbins, 251 Elm Street, Noank, is hereby reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term expiring 12/31/2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0123 Reappointment of Michael Meyer to the Housing Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MICHAEL MEYER TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Michael Meyer, 18 New London Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Housing Authority, for a term expiring 7/31/2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A motion to Suspend the Rules to consider rescinding the Council's earlier decision to phase-in the 2006 revaluation over a three year period was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski. The motion failed with 4 in favor, 4 opposed. (In Favor: Councilor Scott, Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski, and Councilor O'Beirne. Opposed: Councilor Streeter, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets, and Councilor Bond.)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*